

KINGSMEAD LIFE MAGAZINE

ISSUE 13 FEBRUARY 2024

NEWS, INFORMATION AND A WHOLE LOT MORE



CONTENTS

Foreword

Student Voice

RIME Feature - Employability

Enrichment

Student Contribution

Wellbeing

Safeguarding Spotlight

Student Grievance Process

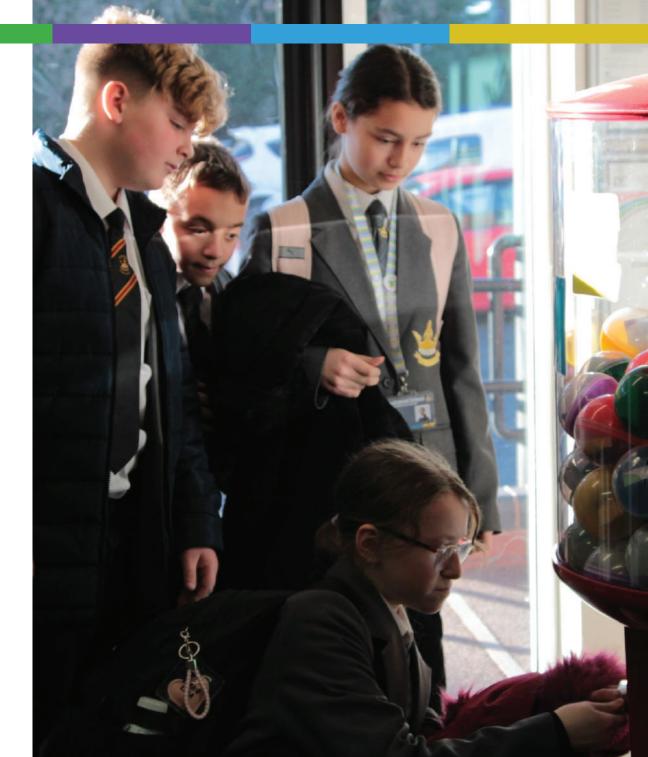
Attendance

Curriculum Feature - Languages

Supporting Our Community

The Sports Report

Shrek the Musical



FOREWORD

Is it just me or can you start to feel spring in the air? Over the last week we have been absorbed with preparing for mock exams, competing in girls and boys football (and winning), netball (still winning) as well as all things Shrek. With over 151 children performing in a 'youth theatre' quality performance, we were blown away by the whole production, which was a total sell out. Possibly even more impressive is that the children raised all of the money to fund the set, costume and script themselves, proving themselves to be both resilient and employable.

The Prom Dress give-away has been even more successful this year, with the dreams of over 21 of our students coming true through the kind donations of so many of our local community fairy godmothers and the hard work of Mrs. Duckett and her mom Jenny Force, who gave up such a lot of their own time to make the prom special for everyone.

This week has been 'Random Act of Kindness' week allowing students and staff to do things for others, something that I think has never been more important, as well as the Futures Fayre on the 7th February.

Along with visits from our primary partner schools, over 70 enrichment activities, growing our RIME values, live podcasts and intensive support for exams, Bedrock Wars, Astronomy and applications opening for the Performing Arts scholars, there really is something for everyone to excel in, at Kingsmead.

> Mrs. Mincher Headteacher

STUDENT VOICE

YOU SAID	WE DID		
Year 11 - We want to play football – list of over 60 students.	Football 2 days a week on the tennis courts, started in November last year.		
Year 7 - We want to play football.	1 day a week started in November last year.		
Year 7 - Can we have some games e.g. table football.	We provided 4 table football games and a variety of other activities.		
Year 8 - We want to play basketball.	We are investigating on positioning hoops and providing use of sports hall at lunch for 1 day per week.		
Year 9 - We need some more equipment for table tennis.	More equipment has since been provided for table tennis.		
Year 9 - We would like some blankets to sit on.	Blankets have been provided.		
Year 10 - We would like more benches.	More benches will be moved from the playground on to the grass by rocky.		
40% of students questioned said they felt they had too much home learning set.	As a result of this feedback the home learning policy is being reviewed to ensure a suitable amount is being set for all students.		
Students identified the following things that staff did to help them reach their full potential. Using model answers in lessons, setting challenge tasks to complete when they have finished the tasks in lessons, setting revision and flip learning for home learning.	This matches with the learning and teaching strategies teachers are using in lessons.		

RIME FEATURE Showcasing employability skills through enterprise

The effort of Kyle, Charlie, Grace, Patrick, Edward, William, Jack, Grace, and Seb in managing enterprise stalls at the school production of 'Shrek' exemplifies a commendable display of employability skills. This hands-on experience not only contributes to the success of the event, but also highlights key skills essential for the professional world.

Teamwork and Collaboration:

The first skill demonstrated by this group of pupils is teamwork. Coordinating efforts to set up, manage, and dismantle the enterprise stalls requires effective communication, mutual understanding, and a shared commitment to achieving common goals. By working together seamlessly, these individuals have showcased their ability to collaborate in a dynamic environment, a trait highly valued in the workforce.

Communication and Customer Service:

Running enterprise stalls involves constant interaction with fellow students, teachers, and visitors. Effective communication skills are crucial in conveying information about the products or services offered, answering queries, and ensuring a positive customer experience. By engaging with diverse audiences, the team has honed their ability to articulate ideas and information clearly, an essential skill in any professional setting.

Time Management:

The school production of 'Shrek' presented a time-sensitive environment, with limited windows for setting up and operating the stalls. Successfully handling the enterprise stalls required impeccable time management skills. The team had to plan and execute tasks efficiently to meet deadlines, demonstrating a crucial skill that is highly sought after in the workplace.



RIME FEATURE Showcasing employability Skills through enterprise

Problem Solving:

In the dynamic and unpredictable environment of event management, problems are bound to arise. The ability to think on one's feet and find creative solutions is a hallmark of effective employees. Whether it was addressing technical glitches, handling unexpected challenges, or adapting to changing circumstances, the group showcased their problem-solving skills throughout the five days of the production.

Initiative and Entrepreneurship:

Taking the initiative to contribute to the enterprise stalls at the school production reflects a spirit of entrepreneurship. By identifying an opportunity to contribute to the event and actively participating, these individuals have demonstrated initiative and a proactive approach—qualities highly valued in any professional setting. This was no more apparent then when Charlie, Jack and Patrick started a personalised ice cream delivery service into the auditorium during the interval.

The involvement of the Enterprise team at the school production of 'Shrek' serves as a tangible demonstration of employability skills. From teamwork and communication to time management, problem-solving, and entrepreneurship, these experiences contribute significantly to their overall professional development, preparing them for success in future endeavours.

ENRICHMENT

d.

Darts Enrichment was set up by Mr Sharma and Mr Taylor. One has a passion for maths and the other for playing Darts. This made an excellent combinatinon to form a Darts Enrichment for students here at Kingsmead, by bringing the skill and resilience of Darts together with the numeracy skills it takes to play the sport. This provides a unique way of practicing mathematics whilst learning a sport proven to be popular with a younger demographic, after the success of professional Darts player Luke Littler, who at the age of 16 recently made it to the final of the Dutch Dart Masters.

Before a dart is thrown, all students are give a Health & Safey talk on the safe use of darts. Following this, students are split into groups (usually by year group).

Novices are shown how to correctly throw the darts and encouraged to hit the scoring playing surface with all three darts. More experienced players will go straight into playing 301 match play.

All students are set target scores with 3 darts, these being:

- Bronze (50 or more)
- Silver (75 or more)
- Gol<u>d (100 or more)</u>

All students who have joined Darts this year have shown progress in their scoring and a love for the sport. So much so that some have even joined darts clubs outside of school.

Hopefully one day Kingsmead will have their own Luke Littler! We are pleased to say that Darts Enrichment is the No.1 choice for many students and the club is over-subscribed. Sadly, due to Health & Safety and confined space, we have to limit the club to a maximum of 24.

Looking ahead, we aim to build on our success by making a RIME bid to update darts, dart boards and playing mats. With its fast popularity here at Kingsmead, Darts is here to stay!







STUDENT CONTRIBUTION INTERNATIONAL SLAVERY MUSEUM, LIVERPOOL

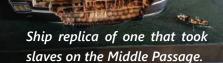
Slavery was/is the act of people buying people and taking them away for free labour. The bought person/people would then be put to work for no charge. These people were known as slaves. Slavery was abolished in 1833 in the UK. So slaves are free and no one dared to enslave a human being ever again! Except, that's not true.

Many were still poor through the times of sugar demand. All this time, the slaves were being whipped and beaten. They would have been clapped in chains and given nothing apart from a small supply of food, homes and the clothes they were wearing. All that whilst their master got all the things he/she wanted. Liverpool got rich by depositing slaves(sometimes) and selling all the products the enslaved people made and harvested.

The most common way (and sometimes the most famous,) way to get slaves to America was the slave trade triangle. England traded Rum, cotton, textiles and guns to Africa. In return, Africa would send people to America to be sold as slaves. Finally, America would send cotton, sugar and slaves to Britain. The cycle went on until slavery was abolished. Slaves are still illegally smuggled to England today.

Here are some pictures taken from my visit to the International Slave Museum in Liverpool. I recommend a visit to find out more about all aspects of slavery, historical and modern. It is free to visit. Thank you for reading.

Written by Nathan, Year 8.



MARIT

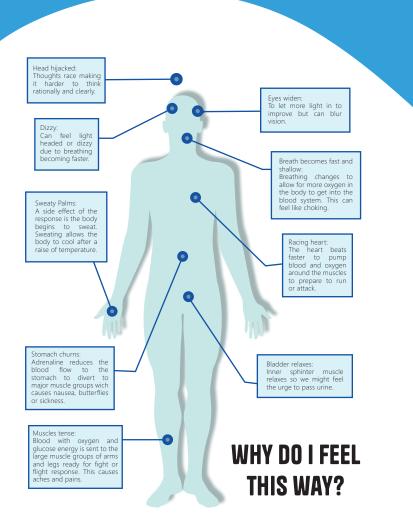
Bigger piles, more profit from slavery.

TING

HETRUTH

ND E.F.

WELLBEING Support during exams



The exam season is drawing nearer, and we thought it would be helpful to focus this edition's wellbeing article on managing exam stress. Everyone experiences certain levels of anxiety from time to time. It is the body's normal stress response to situations we perceive as threatening. Sometimes a small amount of stress can help us to complete tasks and feel more energised, however it can become a problem if it lasts for a long time or is very intense. Exams are typically one of those situations that people find they have a stress response to, but it can be better managed if we look at what might be causing the exam stress and work at ways to help ourselves overcome it.

Managing exam stress is very individualised so it is important to find what works for you. This is one of the reasons why practicing mock exams and assessments in class helps us. Creating a revision schedule is an effective way to manage exam stress by timetabling in specific time to revise specific subjects/topics ensuring you stay on track and organised. It is essential to add self-care into your timetable to get a much-needed balance. Chunk your time and reward your hard work with watching a favourite TV show or having a short gaming session, for example. This helps with motivation and feelings of accomplishment.

The breath is a powerful tool to make you feel less anxious and stressed. The key to getting this right is belly breathing rather than chest breathing. Take a deep belly breath in through your nose for the count of 7 and release this through your mouth for the count of 11. You should practice this when you are not feeling anxious to make it habitual and easier to call upon if the stress response hits.

Our thinking habits are key to managing exam stress. Notice- are you someone who catastrophises, do you think the very worst? For example, 'I'm going to fail'. Or perhaps you put unnecessary pressure with black and white thinking, this is all or nothing. This type of thinking is not helpful so challenging this can help us to feel more confident, balanced and prepared going into an exam.

All our GCSE and Sixth Form students have been given an exam stress self-help guidance and advice leaflet and we have set up a dedicated email address for students to use should they need direct contact support (examstress@kingsmeadschool.net).

DIVERSITY inc.

At Kingsmead we believe our value is in understanding that everyone is unique, recognising and appreciating our differences and commonalities to embrace the concept of diversity, acceptance and respect. Diversity Inc. is our own forum created specifically to cater for our LGBTQ+ community to ensure that, as a forward-thinking school we do not just talk about equality and inclusion, but that we effectively implement these ideas into our school practices and ethos.

One of our Sixth Form Diversity Inc. members, Ollie, explains 'Diversity is a group of students from years 7-13 where we strive to bring equality to Kingsmead. Each meeting, we discuss ways in which we can make Kingsmead a safe place for all students. As a year 12 student, I believe Diversity inc. is an amazing addition to Kingsmead and makes Kingsmead stand out as an LGBTQ+ supportive school!'

Diversity Inc. have a dedicated area in the Kings Mentoring section of the Blended Learning Platform. This is populated with links to useful websites such as Mermaids, The Trevor Project and our very own Diversity Film recorded in house with our amazing students and Mr. Stephens.

Diversity Inc. meets the first Monday of the month during extended tutor time. If you are interested in finding out more, please speak to Mr. Stephens or Mrs. Truby in the wellness hub.

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Kingsmead SAFE

In our current climate there are many factors which can influence young people in their decision making. Online issues/pressures, inequality, sexism, social media influences to name but a few. These issues can and do present in school however we are committed to working alongside parents in reducing the risks associated with these factors.

Keeping our children SAFE in schools is an enormous priority for us all here at Kingsmead. We all know that to learn well and develop into well rounded people we need to be happy and feel safe. A safe school is one where teaching and learning are not distracted; disruptions are minimized; students are not discriminated against; expectations for behaviour are clearly communicated; and there is a culture of fairness and equality.

The word 'safe' can mean many things to our young people. In a recent survey 98% of our students said they feel safe at school, but what about the 2%? All our young people matter. We have introduced several strategies to help with this. Tutor rooms have signposting for support in school, there is a dedicated number displayed in all rooms that students can call if they need to confidentially ask for help or share their concerns. A students' form tutor is always a good first port of call.

To compliment this support, we also have a dedicated group of student leaders who have taken the role of Kingsmead SAFE ambassadors. They have already undertaken training sessions and have been brilliant advocates for safety in and around school. They have learned how to recognize unsafe behaviours and report them appropriately and are another set of eyes and ears for safety on behalf of all our pupils. Training will continue for our ambassadors, and they will grow with the confidence and knowledge that they are supporting our school community in displaying our school values and helping us to keep everyone safe. We are very proud of the dedication and continued efforts of each and every one of our safe ambassadors.





In an effort to maximise the effectiveness of communication between parents and school and to ensure we deal with queries regarding students as efficiently as possible, please find a reminder of the procedures to arrange a meeting with your child's Progress Leader if you require to discuss your child.

- If you wish to discuss your child, please email their Progress Leader to arrange a phone call or a face to face meeting
- If you call school wishing to speak to your child's Progress Leader, a message will be emailed to the Progress Leader by the staff on reception to get in touch with you as soon as possible to arrange a meeting
- It is highly unlikely a Progress Leader will be available to meet you without an appointment due to the busy and varied nature of their role. If the situation you wish to discuss is an emergency, please call reception and we will endeavour to arrange for someone to meet with you as soon as possible
- The Home School Agreement that parents sign stipulates that school will get in touch with you within 48 hours/two working days
- In the high unlikely event that you do not get a reply to your message within 48 hours, please contact Mr Truby (Assistant Headteacher – Progress) directly on t.truby@kingsmeadschool.net

Your child's Progress Leader can be contacted via email as below: Year 7 – Mrs. T Milner - t.milner@kingsmeadschool.net
Year 8 – Mrs. J Thomson - j.thomson@kingsmeadschool.net
Year 9 – Mr. J Taylor - j.taylor@kingsmeadschool.net
Year 10 – Miss. C Hinton - c.hinton@kingsmeadschool.net
Year 11 – Mrs. G Taylor - g.taylor@kingsmeadschool.net

Students leaving school for appointments

If your child has an appointment (hospital, dentist etc.) during the school day which facilitates them needing to leave school early, as parent/carer, you must contact your child's Progress Leader and Attendance to inform them of the appointment prior to the student leaving school site. If a student comes to sign out with Attendance and we haven't had contact from an adult with parental responsibility, we cannot let them leave school site for safeguarding reasons. Attendance can be contacted at KS-Attendance@kingsmeadschool.net In government research it is also clear that pupils who performed better both at the end of primary and secondary school missed fewer days than those who did not perform as well.

Days absent	Approximate weeks absence	Number of lessons missed	Attendance during school year (%)	Equivalent absence over 5 years
9	2	50	95	1/4 year
19	4	100	90	1/2 year
38	8	200	80	1 year
59	12	300	70	1 1/2 years
80	16	400	60	2 years
100	20	500	50	2 1/2 years

The table above clearly shows the number of vital lessons being missed by students as their attendance decreases throughout the school year. This does not include the hours missed from enrichment, where students gain those valuable hours interacting in subjects, topics and specialisms that are not always available to them outside of school.

We understand that sometimes students are unwell and not able to attend school. In these rare cases it is important that parents always contact the attendance team and verify the absence. You can do this by emailing in or contacting our attendance officer Mrs K Gleeson via an email attendance@kingsmeadschool.net, or call on 01543 227324. It is vital that we receive daily updates on your child's health so that we can offer further support if needed. If you are again unsure if you should bring your child in, please contact us for further advice and speak to our inclusion manager Miss J Hughes at j.hughes@kingsmeadschool.net or call on 01543 227336.

ATTENDANCE





CURRICULUM FEATURE LANGUAGES - A TRIP TO PARIS In addition, students

"Oh la la...nous allons aller à Paris, nous avons hâte d'aller en février!"

Kingsmead's Modern Foreign Languages department are excited to announce that they will be taking the GCSE French students to Paris in February 2025.

The trip will give students the chance to experience Paris first-hand and provide them with an unforgettable opportunity to immerse themselves in another culture, whilst challenging them to use the language skills they have developed in lessons. It will be a great bonding and collective experience, which will be thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Students will encounter multiple opportunities throughout the visit to allow them to utilise their French transactional language and apply their knowledge of the language in real-life scenarios, which will support their GCSE studies and further enhance their French speaking and comprehension skills.

An action-packed itinerary has been planned to ensure that students are truly immersed in the "City of Love" both by foot and by taking a river boat cruise on the Seine to gain an insightful view of the iconic landmarks like the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame and the renowned Louvre Museum. Factoring in some shopping in the impressive eight floor, Galeries Lafayette shopping mall. In addition, students will experience the bohemian-vibed streets of Montmartre, the charming village in the heart of Paris where they will lose themselves in spacious boulevards in a melting pot and a buzz of art and French culture, together with the bustling charming cafes and crêperies, all whilst absorbing the wonderful views of the city from the top of the Sacré Coeur. Even having lunch in a typical French restaurant is on the agenda, where students will have the opportunity to indulge in some of France's culinary delights. We hope to see the city like never before atop Montparnasse Tower by night to take in some of Paris' breathtaking views.

After such an educational and cultural experience of the capital, on the final day students will enjoy a full day at the famous entertainment resort, Euro Disney whereby they will gain some recreational time with their peers to enjoy some of the fun and exhilarating rides and attractions the park offers, as well as admiring the spectacular and magical Disney characters on their colourful floats against a backdrop of enchanting music.

Miss Porter, who is organising the trip says that" I cannot wait to see the students experience such a wonderful city, utilise their language skills in authentic contexts and seeing the enjoyment and curiosity travelling abroad involves. I hope the trip will leave the students with memories that will last a lifetime"











SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

The Boy's Vocal Group spread some Christmas cheer in three local care homes in December. Dempsey in Year 7, Ben, Joe and Kyan in Year 8, Ezra and Will in Year 9, Leo, Will, Joe and Tom in Year 10 and Mac in Year 12 visited Kingsley Cottage, Windsor House and Tudor House residential homes in Hednesford, braving the cold and rain as we walked to each venue.

Our first stop was Kingsley Cottage, where we were welcomed by staff and residents, who were so pleased to see the boys. Everyone sang along with Deck The Hall and We Wish You a Merry Christmas and after their performance the boys were rewarded with mince pies and a dip into the Quality Street tub.

In the afternoon we made our way over to Tudor House and Windsor House and it was fantastic to see the boys perform and chat with staff and residents. In Windsor House, some residents even got up to dance, and one lady (who, staff told us, had been an excellent ballerina) danced so beautifully to the boys' performance of Caravan of Love.

The Boy's Vocal Group was formed in May 2023, when Leo expressed a wish to perform an a Capella version of The Longest Time by Billy Joel. Leo and Mrs Williams recruited a set of boys who had the potential to be great singers and are happy to put in the effort to tackle a variety of challenging songs in four-part harmony. Since then, the group has performed in two school concerts, whole-staff meetings and assemblies, and we hope to build on their growing reputation by performing at other local events in 2024. If you would like to get involved in the Boys Vocal Group or the amazing school Vocal Group, please see Mrs. Williams or Miss. Collins in the Music Department to find out more!



Kingsmead students were invited to ask older relatives to join us for 'A Kingsmead Family Christmas, an event with crafts, live music and refreshments to welcome our community to the school and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.



We also spent some time delivering cakes and a copy of our December newsletter to the local community, to say thank you for sharing their space with Kingsmead School and supporting us throughout the year.

THE Sports report

The Year 8 girl's football team played in Round 2 of the County Cup on Thursday against Perton Middle School. Kingsmead were a player short and had no goalkeeper available but the sheer effort and resilience the girls showed was outstanding.

They were dominant in the first half and soon started the scoring but as the game went on, they were beginning to tire and in the last minute of the second half Perton equalised. Going into extra time the girls were re-energised scoring in the first few minutes and then another shortly after from a corner.

Final score 5-3. Goals from Jess (2), Frankie (2) and Scarlett (1). Looking forward to the next round. Go Kingsmead!





The Year 9 Netball team continued their unbeaten streak, beating Codsall 20-6 yesterday. They played some excellent netball and worked hard to get the win.

Their shooting was consistent and they moved the ball down the court fluently. Keep up the great work girls! The Year 8 Handball team participated in the District Schools Handball Competition and emerged victorious, securing a place at the England Handball Regional Qualifiers!

The support and guidance from Charlie and George, as Midland handball representatives, exemplify the spirit of collaboration and sportsmanship within the handball community at Kingsmead.

Well done Year 8!



THE SPORTS REPORT

Just before the school holidays, Kingsmead's Year 8 Football team played in the Football County Cup 2nd round against Walton High. Since it was a rematch of last year's final, our students had to stay focused on maintaining their unbeaten streak.

They've always shown great sportsmanship, dedication, and commitment, but it was awesome to see the team working together so well. On to the next round! Well done to everyone involved



Kingsmead's Year 7s hosted their first handball tournament last Thursday. They're getting ready for their first district schools competition on January 25th. They showed excellent resilience in their preparation for this.

The girls and boys did an amazing job, with 4 super talented handball teams. The future looks really promising!





Massive congratulations to Sonny in Year 10, who has secured a place playing for Leicester Tigers Junior Academy. We are incredibly proud of you Sonny and this huge achievement.

Hopefully this is the start of big things to come for you!







The Y7 Girls Football team played in Round 2 of the County Cup on Tuesday against Sir Graham Balfour. Both teams put determined performances and as a result the game was end to end.

With minutes to go and the score line at 2-2, Balfour had a break and produced the winner. If the Balfour keeper had not had such a good performance the result could have been very different as Kingsmead generated a great number of shots. The girls were disappointed but they should be proud of their endeavour and hard work. Goals from Olivia (2)



Something big and green has taken over Kingsmead School... Shrek the Musical! Since last year, students and staff have been putting together a school performance like no other, telling the tale of an unlikely hero, a wise cracking donkey, a feisty princess and a whole load of fairy-tale characters.

With a cast and crew featuring over 150 students and five nights of performances, it has been fantastic to see such dedication and determination from everyone involved to make this an unforgettable school production for Kingsmead.

And what a performance it was! All five nights were sold out within a week, so The Palace Theatre was full with an enthusiastic audience every night. Students embodied the characters with professionalism and confidence, making each role their own. Social media has been flooded with amazing feedback from those who came to see the show.

Its fantastic to see all the hard work each individual student and member of staff has put into the show result in what may be Kingsmead's most successful school production to date. Watch this space, because there's no doubt that this success will continue!



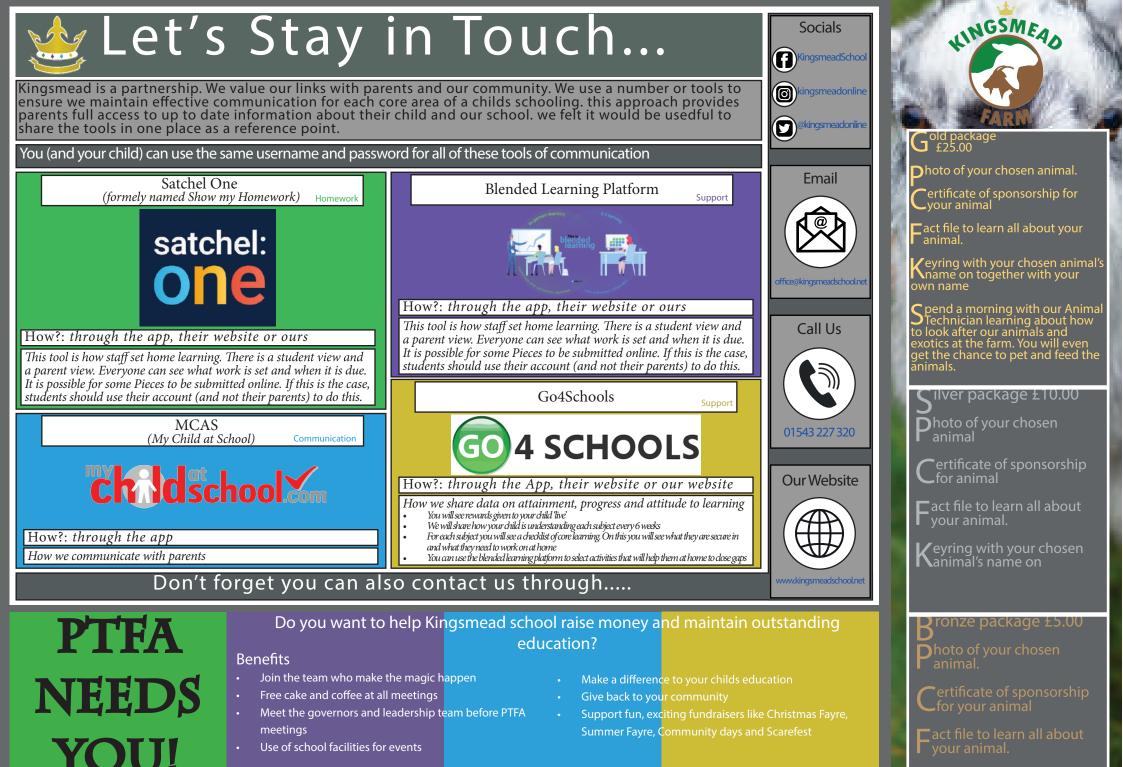












Please contact m.ordidge@kingsmeadschool.net to register your interest.